AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, replace the paragraph commencing at line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

A digital still camera extensively used today uses a CCD (Charge Coupled Device) image sensor or similar solid-state image sensor in place of the traditional silver halide photosensitive type of film. This kind of camera is capable of storing image data output ~~form~~ from the image sensor in a semiconductor memory or similar storage and reproducing it on a monitor in the form of a picture. This allows the operator of the camera, watching the monitor, to confirm the result of a shot immediately after the shot. However, it is not easy for the operator to determine a shutter chance while focusing the camera on a desired subject and selecting the range of a shot at the same time, and then pick up the scene at a desired timing. For example, the operator is apt to miss a shutter chance due to the delay of operator's decision or action or the delay of operation particular to the camera. This brings about a release time lag between the intended time for shooting and the time of the actual shot.

On page 24, replace the paragraph commencing at line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

As stated above, in the interrupt processing a, nine latest frames of image data generated under the pickup control of the controller 38 are sequentially written to the main memory 24 while being sequentially deleted in the order in which they are written. As a result, the image data existing in the main memory 24 are cyclically updated. After the release switch S2 has been turned on (Yes, step 616), the controller 38 causes one additional frame to be picked up and

causes the resulting image data to be written to the main memory 24 before executing the step

504 of FIG. 5. Therefore, <u>when</u> the mode dial 20 is in the "Pre" position, one additional frame

picked up just after the turn-on of the release switch S2 is dealt with as a frame picked up at the

time t = 0.